

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
IO-13 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 /092 W
-----096841 161314Z /53

R 160932Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6035
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO POUCH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASHDC
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZ
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 4420

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PINS PINT PO
SUBJECT: AZOREAN SEPARATISM

1. THE FOLLOWING CABLE FROM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA IS
REPEATED FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFO AND ACTION.

BEGIN QUOTE:

SUMMARY: AN AMERICAN CITIZEN RESIDENT IN SAO MIGUEL HAS
INFORMED THE AMCONSUL THAT HE BELIEVES THE SEPARATISTS
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MAY LAUNCH A VIOLENT, DESPERATE BID FOR AZOREAN INDE-
PENDENCE WITHIN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS. THE CONSULATE HAS
NO INFORMATION WHATSOEVER THAT WOULD LEND SUBSTANCE TO
HIS SUSPICION. NONETHELESS, THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE
CONVERSATION APPEAR TO WARRANT THE EMBASSY BEING ADVISED.
END SUMMARY.

1. AT HIS REQUEST, AMERICAN CITIZEN DR. NORMAN BAILEY CAME BY THE CONSULATE JUNE 7, ESTENSIBLY TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBLE SALE OF A U.S. FLAG FISHING VESSEL NOW IN PONTA DELGADA TO A LOCAL GROUP WITH WHICH HE IS ASSOCIATED. DURING OUR CONVERSATION, HOWEVER, HE QUICKLY MOVED ON TO THE SUBJECT OF AZOREAN SEPARATISM WHICH, IT TURNED OUT, WAS THE PRINCIPAL REASON HE HAD COME.

2. BAILEY SPECULATED THAT IF THE SEPARATISTS WERE EVER GOING TO LAUNCH A VIOLENT TRY FOR INDEPENDENCE, THEY PROBABLY WOULD MAKE THEIR MOVE WITHIN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS. HIS REASONING WAS AS FOLLOWS: WITH RELATIONS BETWEEN THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT AND THE SOARES GOVERNMENT ON THE UP-SWING AND A BREAKTHROUGH ON AUTONOMY A REAL POSSIBILITY AS WELL AS THE LIKELIHOOD OF A FAIRLY RAPID US/GOP BASE AGREEMENT WHICH YIELDS SUBSTANTIAL BENEFITS FOR THE REGION, IT WAS CLEAR THAT MUCH OF THE EXISTING POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE SEPARATISTS COULD SOON DRY UP. THE MOVEMENT'S LEADERS HAD TO BE AWARE OF THIS FACT AS WELL, AND BAILEY SUSPECTED THAT THE HARDLINERS AMONG THEM WOULD BE URGING A VIOLENT BID FOR INDEPENDENCE BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE. ALTHOUGH HE HAD NO PROOF, HE SAID IT WOULD BE REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT BY NOW THE SEPARATISTS HAD BUILT UP A FAIRLY SIZEABLE CACHE OF SMALL ARMS, PAID FOR WITH SOME OF THE \$200,000-\$300,000 WHICH HE BELIEVED THE PHOENIX FOUNDATION HAD GIVEN THEM TO DATE.

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3. DR. BAILEY SAID THAT SOME TIME AGO HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY FLA SYMPATHIZERS,WHOM HE DID NOT NAME, TO DO TWO THINGS: FIRST, TO GET ASSURANCE THAT WERE INDEPENDENCE DECLARED UNILATERALLY AND ACHIEVED, COMMERCIAL FIRMS IN THE U.S. COULD GUARANTEE THE REGION'S PETROLEUM AND GRAIN NEEDS NOW SUPPLIED THROUGH PORTUGAL, AND SECONDLY, TO INFORM THE AMERICAN MILITARY COMMAND AT LAJES THAT IF INDEPENDENCE WERE DECLARED AND THE AMERICANS PERMITTED THE PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE TO SEND REINFORCEMENTS THROUGH LAJES, THE SEPARATISTS WOULD "BLOW UP" THE BASE.

4. DR. BAILEY SAID THAT WHILE IN THE UNITED STATES THIS SPRING, HE HAD CONFIRMED THAT OIL AND GRAIN SUPPLIES WOULD NOT BE A PROBLEM IF MONEY WERE AVAILABLE. THIS PAST WEEK-END HE HAD ALSO INFORMED ONE OF THE MORE SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICERS AT LAJES, A PERSONAL FRIEND, ABOUT THE SEPARATISTS THREAT TO THE BASE. HE SAID THE OFFICER HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE COMMAND HAD BEEN AWARE OF THE SEPARATIST THREAT PREVIOUSLY BUT DID NOT BELIEVE THE SEPARATISTS POSSESSED THE CAPABILITY TO CARRY IT OUT AT THIS TIME.

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5. DR. BAILEY TOOK PAINS TO EMPHASIZE THAT HE THOUGHT ANY VIOLENT MOVE BY THE SEPARATISTS WAS ABSOLUTELY INSANE, THAT HE WAS OPPOSED TO IT AND THAT HE WOULD SO INFORM FLA LEADER JOSE DE ALMEIDA IN THE STRONGEST TERMS WHEN HE MET WITH HIM TO REPORT ON THE TWO REQUESTS MADE OF HIM. HE CLAIMED HE DID NOT AND NEVER HAD SUPPORTED THE SEPARATISTS, BUT FELT DUTY BOUND AS AN AMERICAN TO DELIVER THE SEPARATIST WARNING TO AMERICANS AT LAJES AND TO INFORM AMCONSUL.

6. THE AMCONSUL EXPLAINED VERY CLEARLY TO DR. BAILEY THE U.S. POLICY TOWARDS THE SEPARATISTS AND SUGGESTED THAT
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BAILEY WASN'T DOING HIMSELF ANY GOOD BY EVEN APPEARING TO BE

INVOLVED WITH THEM IN ANY CAPACITY. DR. BAILEY RESPONDED THAT THERE WAS NO MISUNDERSTANDING OF U.S. POLICY ON HIS PARTY. HE REPEATED THAT HE DID NOT SUPPORT THE SEPARATISTS AND, IN FACT, FAVORED A BROAD AUTONOMY FOR THE REGION AS THE BEST SOLUTION. GIVEN THE NATURE OF THE MISSION HE HAD UNDERTAKEN, HE DID NOT FEEL HE HAD COMPROMISED HIMSELF.

7. COMMENT: AMCONSUL HAS HEARD NOTHING WHATSOEVER WHICH WOULD SUBSTANTIATE DR. BAILEY'S SUSPICION THAT THE SEPARATISTS MAY BE UP TO SOMETHING. HOWEVER, THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE SITUATION APPEAR TO JUSTIFY THE EMBASSY BEING ADVISED, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE CONSULATE HAS CEASED CONTACT WITH JOSE DE ALMEIDA.

8. FYI: DR. BAILEY, A CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK ECONOMICS PROFESSOR NOW ON SABBATICAL, HAS SINCE LATE 1976 LIVED NEAR PONTA DELGADA. THE PECULIARITY OF A MAN OF HIS PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND AND AGE (47) SETTLING HERE HAS GIVEN RISE TO LOCAL RUMORS THAT HE MIGHT BE ASSOCIATED WITH A FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION. HE TAUGHT AT THE AZORES UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE BEFORE RESIGNING IN LATE 1977 TO DEVOTE FULL TIME TO PRIVATE BUSINESS VENTURES. HE ALSO DID SOME INFORMAL CONSULTING WORK FOR THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT AND WOULD LIKE TO DO MORE. DR. BAILEY GAINED CONSIDERABLE NOTORIETY HERE AND IN CONTINENTAL PORTUGAL AS A RESULT OF A DIARIO DE NOTICIAS STORY ON A FEBRUARY 1977 SPEECH HE DELIVERED IN ANGRA, TERCEIRA. AT THAT TIME, HE ARGUED THAT THE AZORES WOULD BE BETTER OFF BY ADOPTING THE AMERICAN DOLLAR AS ITS CURRENCY IN LIEU OF THE ESCUDO. THAT INDISCRETION, WHICH APPEARED TO IDENTIFY HIM WITH THE SEPARATISTS, COST HIM HIS FAIRLY GOOD RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT DR. MOTA AMARAL. SINCE THEN HE HAS MAINTAINED A VERY LOW PROFILE HERE HOPING TO GET BACK INTO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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GOOD GRACES OF THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT. MACK

END QUOTE.

2. EMBASSY COMMENT: IT IS HARD TO KEEP A SECRET ON THE AZORES. IF BAILEY'S SPECULATIONS REGARDING SEPARATIST PLANS FOR VIOLENT ACTION HAVE ANY BASIS, EMBASSY OR CONSULATE IS LIKELY TO HEAR MORE SHORTLY.
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